

# Border Eagle

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Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas

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## New vice chief named

SAN ANTONIO -- The Senate confirmed Lt. Gen. John D. W. Corley on Monday as the next Air Force vice chief of staff. He will be promoted to the rank of general.

General Corley, who is currently the principal deputy for the assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition, will replace Gen. T. Michael Moseley. The senate confirmed General Moseley as the next Air Force chief of staff July 1.

General Corley entered the Air Force in 1973 and has commanded at the squadron, group and wing levels. He has more than 3,000 flying hours with combat experience.

As combined air operations center director supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, General Corley coordinated more than 11,000 combat missions striking more than 4,700 targets.

His awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star Medal.

(Courtesy Air Force Print News Service)



Photo by Master Sgt. Anthony Hill

## A perfect plan in the making...

(From left) Master Sgts. Chris Trujillo, Robert Bone and David Adkins, members of the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Induction Committee, take a look at the program designed for the upcoming event. Committee members remind everyone that the ceremony to induct 18 of Laughlin's newest senior NCOs will be held Aug. 17 at Club XL. A social begins at 6 p.m. and the induction starts at 7 p.m. Dress is mess dress or semi-formal for military members and business or evening attire for civilians. Cost is \$21.95 with a \$2 discount for club members. To attend, R.S.V.P.s must be submitted to group and squadron representatives by Monday. For more information, call 298-5262.

## Long term care insurance: a small price to pay

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE,-- Active-duty Airmen, some reservists, appropriated-fund civilian employees, retirees and qualified family members can still apply for the Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Program.

The program can help federal employees defray the costs of in-home care, nursing-home care, or assisted-living facilities for people no longer able to perform normal daily activities because of chronic-health conditions.

"Long term care insurance isn't just for old age -- nearly 40 percent of

people needing long term care are under age 65," said Ms. Janet Thomas, human resources specialist at the Air Force Personnel Center here. "Health insurance will cover hospitalization and medical care, but not necessarily long term care. The Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program provides protection from the potentially high cost of long-term care."

The FLTCIP is the largest program in the nation, she said. It is sponsored by the Office of Personnel Management and provides affordable group premiums and comprehensive benefits.

Two types of plans are available:

-- Facilities-Only Plan: This covers all levels of nursing home, assisted living facility and inpatient hospice care.

-- Comprehensive Plan: This covers everything the Facilities-Only Plan covers, plus care provided at home by a nurse, home health aide, therapist, informal caregiver or other authorized provider. Costs of adult day care centers and home hospices are covered as well.

See 'Insurance,' page 4

## Newslines

### Flight Medicine closure

The Flight Medicine clinic will be closed today from 11:15 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. for a going away luncheon and again Aug. 10 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. for a change-of-command ceremony.

A flight surgeon will be on-call and can be reached by calling the command post at 298-5167.

### Burger King for breakfast

Burger King is testing new hours. They will open weekdays at 6 a.m. for breakfast. The test is scheduled to end in September.

### Thrift Shop moves

The Thrift Shop is scheduled to move and re-open in a new location, Building 358 (the old gym) Aug. 17 at 9 a.m. Volunteers are needed to help pack, move and set up from Monday to Aug. 12.

For more information, call 298-5592 or 298-2071.

## Deployment stats

Deployed: 62  
Returning in 30 days: 1  
Deploying in 30 days: 7

## Mission status

Mission capable rate  
(As of Tuesday)

T-1, 88.6% T-6, 88.6%  
T-38C, 77.2%

## Alcohol-related incidents

January to August 2004 13

Jan. 1 to August 3, 2005 17

Days since last incident 6

## Freedom isn't free; it's worth fighting for

Deployed XLER witnesses 143 troops become Americans in Iraq

### Commander's Corner

By Maj. Lori Lavezzi  
47th Mission Support Squadron  
commander

Greetings from Camp Victory, Iraq! I have now been here more than two months, and I am still overwhelmed by the spirit and professionalism of the troops deployed here.

Every day, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines do extraordinary things for Iraq and its people.

This hit home for me more than ever July 25 as I stood on the third floor of the Al Faw Palace to watch the Naturalization Ceremony in the rotunda below.

The rotunda of this massive palace has an intricate marble floor surrounded by large marble pillars and an enormous chandelier hangs from the ceiling. Below the chandelier, 143 Soldiers waited patiently for the ceremony to begin. They were all dressed in their best desert uniforms and boots and had for the moment put aside their weapons. The 3rd Infantry Division band played "This is My Country" and "God Bless America" as the crowd of spectators gathered.

The 143 candidates there came from 46 countries and traveled from all over Iraq for the ceremony.

Some of them came from units where just the day before they lost members to gunfire or improvised explosive devices. These Soldiers stood united with one goal in mind... to become American citizens.

The troops assembled that day are just a few of the more than 44,000 United States military members who are not American citizens. As I stood there and thought about what



(Courtesy photo)

**Maj. Lori Lavezzi, 47th Mission Support Squadron commander, and Master Sgt. David Hirtreiter, 47th MSS, pose for a photo in front of Al Faw Palace, Iraq. Major Lavezzi and Sergeant Hirtreiter are deployed from here in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.**

they were willing to sacrifice for a country they could not yet call their home, I was humbled.

Many Americans take for granted the freedoms we enjoy and always seem to find something to complain about. But believe me, the young troops waiting patiently to become Americans understand that freedom is not free, and they are willing to fight for it every day. They believe, as I do, that everyone deserves to enjoy those freedoms, and they are dedicated to helping the Iraqi people find the security to choose their government and to make better lives for their children.

All the candidates stood and their voices rang through the palace as they took an oath to protect and defend America.

Each one was called by name to receive their official certificate and a flag.

After that, a young man sang a stirring rendition of Toby Keith's song, "American Soldier." There wasn't a dry eye in the palace by the time he finished -- to include my own.

I will never forget this extraordinary moment in Iraq as 143 new American citizens headed back out to do their duty. Nor will I forget what each of us in the military, regardless of career field or service, whether deployed or at home station, contributes every day to our great country and to people around the world who need our help.

In Toby Keith's words... "Sleep in peace tonight!"

### Border Eagle

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#### Deadlines

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Submissions can be e-mailed to: [olufemi.owolabi@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:olufemi.owolabi@laughlin.af.mil) or [sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil).

#### Advertising

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.



Actionline

Col. Tod Wolters  
47th Flying Training  
Wing commander



Call 298-5351 or email  
actionline@laughlin.af.mil

One way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels is the Commander's Actionline.

Before you call in or e-mail an Actionline, please try to work out the problem through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

When calling or e-mailing the Actionline, please keep messages brief and remember to include your name and phone number so you are assured of a timely personal reply. Contact information is also useful when additional information is needed to pursue your inquiry.

We will make every attempt to en-

sure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

Below are some useful telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a base agency.

AAFES	298-3176
Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252

Civilian Personnel	2985299
Clinic	298-6311
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Legal	298-5172
MEO	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

Rendering salutes  
at the gates

**Question:** I have a question about the security forces members at the front gate. It seems since we've gotten civilian guards, whenever the military member is with the guard, they've come to believe they don't have to salute officers' vehicles at the gate. Why is that? To me, this is a breach of protocol and good discipline.

**Response:** We changed entry-control procedures for the

installation with regard to contract-guard personnel and security forces members. Gate guards are posted at base entry points to facilitate safe, secure entry for Laughlin personnel, including identification checks, random vehicle inspections and random antiterrorism measures as directed by higher authority.

With the addition of contracted civilian gate guards, the role of security forces members at the gates has changed. Our security forces members are now in place primarily as security overwatch for the civilian gate guards and not as gate

guards themselves.

In their new role of security overwatch, their sole responsibility is to ensure the safety and security of the contract guards who are acting as the primary identification checkers. Their duties are not to check ID cards or inspect vehicles, etc., but more importantly, to be prepared to respond to crises that may arise.

Security forces members are actually following proper procedure by *not* rendering salutes to passing officers. Saluting is a courtesy rendered when it does not detract from their primary duties, which in many

cases it won't.

There is no requirement for military members to salute vehicles (other than staff cars) at the gates or anywhere else on the installation, much like there is no requirement for vehicle operators to salute higher-ranking officers when they are passing through the gate.

All this being said, we continue to render appropriate courtesy when it doesn't interfere with security.

If security forces members once again resume checking credentials, they will be able to resume the courtesy of saluting.

There are many roads to Texas

By Col. Lela Holden  
Air Force Surgeon General  
Office of Congressional and Public Affairs

BOLLING AIR FORCE BASE, D.C. -- As my husband and I prepare for a transfer to another base and mission, we have been making plans to take leave in Texas.

As we're looking at the map and discussing the options of flying versus driving, the short route versus a longer route to see more sites, and how much time we want to take for the trip, I'm reminded of the many choices and possibilities involved with decisions. For any trip there are truly many alternatives based on individual needs, preferences, and priorities. There are many

roads to Texas.

In a similar vein, there are many roads to success. I was privileged to attend a retirement ceremony recently for a mid-level Airman who addressed the question of "am I successful?" He then went on to eloquently describe coming home late one evening and watching as his three kids ran down the stairs to hug and welcome him home from the office. Recounting this event brought a big smile to his face, as he stated without any hesitation, that having a loving family was indeed a sign of success in this life.

On the other hand, I know of examples of famous, accomplished scientists who have many publications and much prestige and recognition

within the scientific community who bemoan the fact they have not yet received a Nobel Prize. It seems by their definition of success they have failed to measure up. There are many roads to success.

Where am I going with this, you ask? Well, as the discussions and charges of religious intolerance at the Air Force Academy swirl in the news, and our senior leaders engage to address the concerns, I am reminded about these simple comparisons of travel and success.

It seems that much in life offers us multiple choices and roads, regardless of the arena. And if there are many roads to Texas, or to success, how is it possible there are not truly many roads to God? For those of us who

believe in an omniscient, omnipresent, loving Creator of our magnificent universe and source of our individual beings, how is it possible that any human can limit that Creator to only one road to understanding, loving, and worshipping Him?

If human life is richly diverse and varied, isn't it reasonable to say that critical matters related to God are as varied as well? Does it make sense to say that only one religion offers the definitive road to God? I think not.

Religious tolerance, including tolerance of those who choose not to relate to formal religion at all, is critical for teamwork in the Air Force. But a deeper level is that of genuine respect -- respect that others' roads to God



are valid. Indeed I would emphasize that all the world's major religions have not only much to offer, but much in common.

For example, they all have some version of the Golden Rule. I would also suggest that a thin layer of tolerance that barely conceals the underlying belief that one's own religion is superior is not sufficient to truly build the teamwork our Air Force and country need. We need respect for the rich complexity and variety of possibilities for us as humans, in relation to all aspects of life, and in relation to God. After all, there are many roads to Texas.

# Critical days continue to claim Airmen

By Tech. Sgt. Mike Spaits  
*Air Force Print News*

SAN ANTONIO -- The fatal auto accident that claimed the lives of two Airmen in Germany recently, raised the Air Force's death toll to 24 during this year's "101 Critical Days of Summer."

While that number is fairly typical for summer fatalities, it is still too high, said Tom Pazell, deputy chief of Air Force Ground Safety.

"This time last year, we had 19 fatalities, and in 2003 we had 21 as of Aug. 3," Mr. Pazell said.

"Our biggest problem continues to be private motor vehicles," added Mr. Pazell. "We're losing too many people on the highways."

Included in the count this year are four Airmen who died on duty in an aircraft mishap.

This year, 15 of the 24 deaths were a result of either auto or motorcycle accidents. "Airmen need to take an operational risk management approach to traveling and plan out what they're doing. Plan for extra travel time and do not travel too much in one day," Mr. Pazell said.

One additional factor that may be contributing to extreme behavior on the roadways could be influenced by movies, reality television programming and even video games glamorizing high speeds and extravagant stunts, safety officials said.

"As far as motorcycles go, we've seen numbers (of accidents) over the last three years that are off the scales," Mr. Pazell said.

In a bold move to try to curb motorcycle accidents and to identify Airmen at higher risk for mishaps, Pacific Air Forces officials have implemented several programs command wide, including a restrictive motorcycle policy intended to bring safety to the forefront for every rider in the command.

The need for senior leader involvement to ensure the program's success is critical, said Master Sgt. Todd Parish, superintendent of plans and programs for PACAF's ground safety office.

"Commanders must make safety a priority to their younger Airmen," Sergeant Parish said.

The motorcycle policy the command instituted puts heavy emphasis on training and safety awareness as well as limiting those less-experienced riders to vehicles more appropriate for their skill level.

For example, the policy restricts new motorcycle riders to driving machines that are under 600 cc, and they are not allowed to carry passengers for one year.

This limits the amount of power at the hands of inexperienced riders and gives them time to develop the skills needed to operate safely.

One of the more successful safety programs adopted by PACAF has been the motorcycle mentorship program, Sergeant Parish said.

The mentorship program puts experienced riders in a unit with less experienced riders to help them learn the proper skills necessary to ride safely.

"We implemented the mentorship program at Misawa (Air Base, Japan) over a year ago, and they have had no accidents since it's been in place," he said. The Air Base had averaged at least two motorcycle accidents per year for the five years prior to implementing the mentorship program.

Besides vehicle safety, Air Force officials are attempting to ingrain safety into its youngest troops early on.

The Airmen at the highest risk in general for mishaps historically have been young men in the 19- to 25-year-old category. This group tends to see the most accidents and fatalities, Mr. Pazell said.

One thing that can be done to re-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Orly Tyrell

**At Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., Staff Sgt. Allen Puckett fastens the chin strap of his helmet. Proper wear of safety equipment is an essential element of reducing risk while riding motorcycles.**

duce this group's risk is constant reminders from commanders so troops understand the gravity of making poor decisions.

"Commanders need to drive the safety point home constantly," Mr. Pazell said.

That is exactly what the PACAF Comprehensive Assessment of Risk and Evaluation program does for the more than 17,000 Airmen who have been evaluated this year in the command, Sergeant Parish said.

The Web-based program requires supervisors to interview all Airmen under age 27 to identify lifestyle and behavioral trends that have the probability to increase an individual's exposure to risk. When all the data is gathered, the program then assigns a "score" that correlates to the potential for high-risk exposure and gives supervisors incentive to communicate with and give advice to help reduce risk or eliminate it all together.

"If I have a troop who sky dives, hang glides and rides motorcycles, that Airman would likely be in a higher risk category than one who spends his weekends playing cards with his children," Sergeant Parish said.

The CARES program gives supervisors and commanders the tools to help their Airmen make better decisions, Sergeant Parish said.

Supervisors of high-risk-category Airmen are reminded monthly to communicate with their high-risk Airmen and provide tools to help get the safety message across. Troops in less critical categories are contacted on a less frequent basis.

Regardless of which category the young men and women fall into, communication is the key to safety.

"We need to continue reaching out to our younger generation and reminding them to act responsibly so they'll make better decisions and be around for a long time," Sergeant Parish said.

## Insurance, from page 1

Those eligible for the program include: Federal employees and annuitants; separated Federal employees with title to a deferred annuity; active and retired military members; active members of the Selected Re-

serve; retired "grey" reservists even if they are not receiving retirement pay; compensationers receiving compensation from the Department of Labor; the current spouse of an eligible person; adult children of living eligible people; parents, parents-in-law, and stepparents of living eligible

people; and surviving spouses receiving a survivor annuity.

Premiums are based on applicant's age, so the sooner people apply, the smaller premium they will pay, according to Ms. Thomas. Once enrolled, coverage will not be canceled as long as premiums are paid

on time, and coverage can't be canceled due to age or a change in health.

For information members can call the Laughlin military personnel flight at 298-5276.

For details, call (800) 582-3337, TTY (800) 843-3557, or visit online at [www.LTCFEDS.com](http://www.LTCFEDS.com).

Multinational commission working to smooth transition

By Kathleen T. Rhem  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- A high-level commission established in Baghdad, Iraq, is “a useful exercise” in helping Iraqis develop effective ministries, a senior Defense Department official said here today.

The Joint Commission for Conditions-Based Transition held its initial meeting Aug. 2, according to a news release from Multinational Force Iraq. The commission’s main goal is to develop a plan to gradually transfer responsibility for

security in Iraq to Iraqi security forces.

DoD spokesman Larry Di Rita said the commission is a good initiative “to help focus the development of ministries a little bit better and to develop a work plan going forward.”

Commission members include: Iraqi Interior Minister Bayan Baqir Jabr; Defense Minister Sadun al-Dulaymi; National Security Adviser Muwafaq al-Rubai; U. S. Ambassador to Iraq Zalmay Khalilzad; British Ambassador to Iraq William Patey; and U. S. Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr. , commander of Multina-

tional Force Iraq.

In the first meeting, the Multinational Force Iraq news release said, commission members agreed on a set of guidelines to use in developing their plan:

- The key consideration is the capability of Iraqi security forces;
- Other considerations will include the capacity of local governments to exercise civil authority and provide basic services, as well as the level of the insurgent threat;
- Transition of security will not be based on rigid timelines;
- Transition will be gradual to ensure continued success of

Iraqi governance and security forces; and

- The transition of security to Iraqi security forces and the reduced presence of coalition forces will be visible to the Iraqi people.

The commission established a smaller working group that will meet twice weekly to work out details. The full commission will then meet every

other week “to finalize the conditions and criteria for the conditions-based transition,” the release stated. The commission is expected to provide recommendations to Iraqi Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jafari by Sept. 26.

“I think we’ll be seeing more activity out of (the commission) as we move forward,” Di Rita said.

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5X7 Armed Forces



# Crew chiefs turn bombers like fighters

By Master Sgt. Rich Romero  
40th Air Expeditionary Group  
public affairs

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM -- Postmen have nothing on these guys, particularly Tech. Sgt. Shannon Reynolds, a crew chief with the 40th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron at this forward-deployed location.

He is one of 37 crew chiefs from Minot Air Force Base, N.D., who not only contend with bitterly-cold winters and mountains of snow during winters at home, but now must endure heat, humidity and buckets of rain while deployed here during the "winter" season.

Sergeant Reynolds, however, has racked up his frequent flier miles with 633 days deployed at this location since 1992. He will hit at least 673 by the time he leaves, hopefully for the last time, he said.

"You never can tell," Sergeant Reynolds said about a possible eighth deployment here.

While he and the others may not deliver mail, they certainly deliver reliable B-52 Stratofortresses -- to the tune of a 10.5-percent total nonmission maintenance-capable rate.

"This is a measure of how well we fix and keep aircraft flyable," said Capt. Chris Boring, a maintenance

operations officer. "The (Air Combat Command) standard is 22 percent. We're pushing it down each month from a 21.3 percent in May to nearly 10 percent in July."

Such rates are hard to achieve, particularly with bigger and heavier aircraft as compared to fighters, Sergeant Reynolds said.

"We're turning these like they're fighters," he said. "It didn't use to be like that five to eight year ago."

Sergeant Reynolds said it is the caliber of people and newer maintenance equipment which allows crew chiefs to considerably drop the aircraft turnaround time. It also comes from a strong mechanical background and pride, he said.

"It's kind of like detailing your car," Sergeant Reynolds said. "You take pride in your aircraft just like (some) people do with their cars, but (an aircraft) tends to cost a little bit more."

The tasks required of crew chiefs are many -- post-flight, pre-flight and walk-around inspections of the aircraft, acceptance and transfer inspections, ground-handling operations, launch and recovery, as well as general aircraft maintenance.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jocelyn Rich

**Senior Airman Vincent Tripodi packs up communication equipment used to talk to the cockpit crew before launching a B-52 Stratofortress. he is a crew chief with the 40th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron at a forward-deployed location deployed from Minot Air Force Base, N.D.**

With a real-world mission of close-air support to coalition troops in Afghanistan, the crew chiefs are performing those tasks more often than at home station.

"The aircraft are breaking a lot more, too, (because of) the extended flight time," Sergeant Reynolds said.

However, that is not what frustrates him and other wrench-turners. It is the difficulty in getting parts and supplies that complicate the job.

"We deployed with a lot of stuff, and we've gone through much of it," he said. "We're getting parts now from wherever we can, however we can."

While maintaining a steady supply of parts and supplies remains a challenge here, Sergeant Reynolds has seen great a lot of improvement in other areas during his nearly two years here.

"I've seen a lot of things come and go," he said. "There was no tent city at first. We lived in enlisted aircrew dorms. The only things left of those are two concrete slabs.

"The (morale, welfare and recreation) programs are great here, (too)," he said. "You make the best of it."

(Courtesy Air Force Print News Service)

## International affairs program available to officers, civilians

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON -- Air Force officers and civilians have the opportunity to continue their education through the Global Master of Arts Program II.

This graduate studies program is available to all midcareer officers and civilians serving in international affairs positions who have at least eight years of international affairs experience.

The purpose of the program is to improve the quality and professionalism of the international affairs workforce.

"This year there are six Air Force

slots for the program," said Bruce S. Lemkin, deputy undersecretary of the Air Force for International Affairs. "The board usually looks for captains to lieutenant colonels and midlevel civilians who fit the entrance criteria, including a foreign language requirement.

"GMAP is a great opportunity for Air Force officers and civilians to gain significant broadening and important credentials in international affairs," he said. "It is especially attractive for those whose personal situation makes a geographic move for the purpose of graduate education impractical."

The GMAP II, funded by the Department of Defense, is a 12-month program culminating in a master of arts

degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. The part-time program is unlike most graduate courses in that it requires three, two-week residency sessions combined with Internet-based courses of study.

"The master's degree program at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University enables the Air Force GMAP to obtain world-class graduate education that complements other career development opportunities," Mr. Lemkin said.

Two of the mandatory two-week residence sessions are conducted at the Fletcher School near Boston, and the third residency is conducted near Washington, D.C., and includes a the-

sis requirement. The program is part time in addition to the student's regular duties. It takes an average of 20 hours a week of study.

"The beauty of this program is it can be accomplished at the home duty station," Mr. Lemkin said. "This would be a tough academic year, but it has an advantage over other programs that require you to move. The program provides students an opportunity to participate in a world-class program and make an impact on the international affairs field."

Applications will be accepted until Sept. 1 for the class beginning in March. Applications can be downloaded at [www.iaprograms.net/docs/050325\\_gmap-ii\\_app.pdf](http://www.iaprograms.net/docs/050325_gmap-ii_app.pdf).

# Jazz night in Baghdad bebops with Airmen's notes

By Tech. Sgt. Jason Tudor  
Air Force Print News

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- If you close your eyes, lick the sand off your teeth and listen, you would swear you had been dropped into some Soho nightclub.

Ragamuffin musicians clad in hip suits shuffle in after a meal uptown. Instruments clatter from their cases and get propped on stands. After some quick glad-handing of friends, a few wires get plugged in. Some quick scales peep out of the horns before a deep voice intones a mellow introduction. "Welcome to jazz night." Then, music.

Alto saxophone notes twist smoothly on the same breeze that carries the cool air across the small room. The thread of a muted trumpet is wound between, causing toes to tap, heads to bob and fingers to snap in time, the room alight with jazz phrases that ask you to do nothing more than just be cool.

Now open your eyes. Playing sax on the unpainted plywood floor of the "Alaska" tent wearing his blue shorts, T-shirt and reflective belt is Master Sgt. Rosmon Johnson. Blowing trumpet beside him is a similarly clad Maj. Donald Baker setting the easy mood for Baghdad Jazz Night.

With the right amount of imagination, the duo's startlingly good jazz chops easily transform this military tent called Paradise Point into a trendy New York City hot spot. It is a Sunday staple at the base now, with Sergeant Johnson headlining a set of contemporary jazz tunes. Major Baker joins the set to play a few jazz standards before the duo finish, the set lasting about an hour for between 20 and 25 people.

"We usually go there just to wind down," said Staff Sgt Isabel Claudio, deployed here from Kadena Air Base, Japan. "They are always so good. They're both pretty good players."

The music is Sergeant Johnson's way of talking to people and relaxing.

"It comes from the heart," Sergeant Johnson said. "I'm not a very good communicator, so I talk through my saxophone."

Sergeant Johnson's set is contemporary jazz. It included flawless versions of George Benson's "Masquer-



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Scott Wagers

**Master Sgt. Rosmon Johnson makes his alto saxophone sing for the crowd on jazz night. He is a heating, ventilation and air conditioning craftsman deployed from Scott Air Force Base, Ill.**

ade," Candy Dulfer's "Sax on the Beach," and "Saving All My Love for You" by Whitney Houston.

The first notes came 26 years ago in Baton Rouge, La., when young Rosmon joined the Glen Oaks High School marching band. He also played in the school's concert and jazz bands.

He never aspired to play professionally. Despite his Louisiana jazz roots, a different tune sounded in his mind.

"I'd always wanted to join and have a career in the Air Force," said the 22-year veteran. "I love my country."

He never thought of auditioning for the Air Force band when he joined.

"I wasn't playing like this when I joined the military," he said.

Instead, he chose a career as a heating, ventilation and air conditioning craftsman. He is deployed from Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

Sergeant Johnson said it was not until almost six years into his service that he felt he could play well. He doesn't read music, he just plays it by ear. He goes a long way to emulate people like his jazz heroes Grover Washington Jr., Gerald Albright and Kirk Whalum.

Major Baker's path was similar. His first introduction to music was with the euphonium, a sort of tuba. It was not the instrument he wanted to play.

"I wanted to play trombone, but my

arms weren't long enough to stretch it out," he said.

He also wanted to play trumpet, but when he saw his brother playing the trumpet, "it looked like he was in pain.

"Eventually, my parents took me to a music store," he said. "The owner asked me to try the euphonium. I blew one note and he said, 'Yup. That's for you.' I think he just wanted to sell us the horn."

The major said Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie and Charlie Parker were all early jazz influences. As his interest shifted to singing, Frank Sinatra and Harry Connick Jr., however, currently top his list.

"You pick someone you want to follow, but you develop your own style," he said.

In high school, he went on to play baritone horn for an international band, opening his eyes to military music. By that time, he had also decided he wanted to fly airplanes. So, he earned an appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy, played in the academy jazz band and was soon faced with a tough decision: play music or fly. He said he loved the idea of both. Then one day, he knew what to do.

"I was around some of the Air Force band musicians," the major said. "They said they loved playing music, but they'd give anything to go fly. They told me I could always play music, but I may never get the chance to fly again. It made

sense."

Now 13 years into his career and flying E-3 Sentry airborne warning and control systems, he has not looked back. Deployed here as the wing safety officer, he first listened to Sergeant Johnson's set, and then asked if he could join in. The two have been playing together at jazz night for three weeks.

Coincidentally, both Airmen also play piano and said technology has made it easier than ever to play a set. Sergeant Johnson said he used a keyboard to play all the instruments on his backing tracks, played from a mini compact disc player. Major Baker piped his music off a laptop computer.

Both men said there is something refreshing about playing in front of people.

"There's something you get from a live show," the major said. "I love the performance buzz. Sometimes I get so caught up in it, I forget there's an audience there."

Sergeant Johnson's feeling bebopped alongside the major's.

"There are a lot of times when I'm not even aware of my surroundings," he said.

Neither Airman has aspirations of playing a professional gig in a Soho nightclub anytime soon. But if you close your eyes inside Paradise Point on a Sunday night, you'll swear you're there.

"We want people to relax," Sergeant Johnson said, "and hope they enjoy it."



4X10

## 47th ADS change of command

The 47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron will hold a change-of-command ceremony Aug. 10 at 9 a.m. at Club XL.

For more information, call 298-6312.

## 47th MDG hosts sports- physical clinic

The 47th Medical Group pediatric clinic will be hosting a sports-physical clinic from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. A makeup session will be held Wednesday from 3:30 to 5:30p.m.

Prior to the appointment, parents should obtain physical-examination forms from their respective schools and complete any demographic/history information.

Call the appointment line at 298-6333 to schedule physical examination.

**Interested  
in the Air  
Force?**



*Call Del Rio's  
Air Force  
recruiter  
at  
774-0911.*



## XLer with many families living ‘American Dream’

By Airman 1st Class  
Olufemi A. Owolabi  
Editor

### Tariku-Shotts' File

**Hometown:** Indianapolis, Ind.

**Family:** Mother-Chery Carter Shotts, Father-Charles Shotts, Brother-Mohammed Albakaye

**Time at Laughlin:** 6 months

**Time in service:** One year and one month

**Greatest accomplishment:** Joining the United States Air Force

**Hobbies:** Hanging out and being silly with Jenni, Kaiti and Shanequa

**Bad habit:** If I hear a song or a melody, I'll start singing it right after it's done playing until I hear a new one.

**Favorite movies:** "Shawshank Redemption," "Gladiator," and "My Fair Lady"

**If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why?** Nelson Mandela for his courage, good will and his devotion to democracy, he is an amazing man and encompasses every characteristic of a great leader.

An Airman here will never forget what it means to leave a country plagued with poverty and disease to live the "American Dream."

Through a journey from the verge of death and hopelessness to where "dreams and hopes come true" in America, Airman Kelemwork Tarriku-Shotts, 47th Operations Group air traffic controller, has found solace in three families — her mother's, her adopted-mother's and her Air Force family.

Airman Tariku-Shotts' story began in 1991 when Cheryl Carter-Shotts, her adopted mother, found her on the streets of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. "Baby Kelem" had been wandering the streets destitute before Mrs. Carter-Shotts gave her an offer one could seldom find — freedom from poverty and disease. The Airman now calls Mrs. Carter-Shotts "Mom."

"My mom was walking down the street and all the kids embraced her, but I was the only one just sitting there with a blank stare," Airman Tariku-Shotts said. "My mom thought it was weird that I didn't approach her. She threw a little ball at me to see if I would play with it, but I didn't."

Mrs. Carter-Shotts got curious. She inquired and found out what was wrong with baby Kelem from other people. Mrs. Carter-Shotts also found out where Kelem's birth mother, Truiwork Tariku lived. She discovered Kelem needed critical medical attention if she was to live.

"Then, I was starving and had a lot of medical problems," Airman Tariku-Shotts said. "In fact, I was really skinny and tiny."

Mrs. Carter-Shotts volunteered to take Kelem to the United States where she could get the necessary medical attention...something her birth mother and poverty- and hardship-ridden country were unable to provide. Ms. Tariku didn't have much choice; they had nothing, and this was Kelem's slim chance for survival.

"Because Ethiopia was a communist country at the time and rebels were seven miles away from the capital city of Addis Ababa, it was very hard to get me out of Ethiopia," Airman Tariku-Shotts explained. "But my mom

(Mrs. Carter-Shotts) went through a lot of processes to get me out of there."

Mrs. Carter-Shotts was able to procure a "student visa" for 5-year-old Kelem, and they both left for America.

Kelem (Airman Tariku-Shotts) arrived in America and received the necessary medical attention. Six months later, she had fully recovered and was finally healthy.

"I came to America, lived and grew up in an amazing household, got (much needed) attention and quickly recovered," Airman Tariku-Shotts said with a smile on her face.

A year later, Mrs. Carter-Shotts went back to Ethiopia to give the good news to Ms. Tariku who was overjoyed and asked Mrs. Carter-Shotts to adopt Kelem (Airman Tariku-Shotts.)

According to Airman Tariku-Shotts, her birth mother said, "Can you please keep her (Kelem) there and let her get an education and a good life."

In 2004, Airman Tariku-Shotts graduated from Brebeuf College Prep High School in Indianapolis, Ind., and thought about going to college.

But, Airman Tariku-Shotts made a judicious decision she felt was best for her and her family. She approached her mother, Mrs. Carter-Shotts, and disclosed her decision.

"In January of my senior year, I told my mom I wanted to join the military," Airman Tariku-Shotts said. "My mom asked, 'Why the military instead

of college?'"

Airman Tariku-Shotts replied, "America has been good to

me Mom, and I owe America. Also, the military will pay for my college."

According to the Airman, the reply brought tears to Mrs. Carter-Shotts' eyes. It was indeed a judicious decision that Airman Tariku-Shotts said she has never regretted making, especially knowing her adopted mother was a single mom with five children — three biological and two adopted.

In June 2004, the new recruit kissed her mother goodbye and set off for a journey to a different family — the U.S. Air Force.

"I joined the Air Force because I wanted to grow up," she said. "Patriotically, I wanted to (dedicate) some years to all those who fought for the freedom I am enjoying now. I am very proud of that (to be a servicemember)."

Furthermore, she said the Air Force has great benefits. "Where else can you get a job that pays... and allows you to go to school... and get full tuition assistance at the same time?" Airman Tariku-Shotts asked. "It is only in the military."

Airman Tariku-Shotts said she is a very motivated person when it comes to education. Her goal is to become a scientist and research HIV/AIDS. "I know it's a very tough goal, but I can achieve it through the Air Force," Airman Tariku-



Shotts added. "I am going to start taking college classes as soon as I am done with my on-the-job training."

Despite her goals and responsibilities in the Air Force, Airman Tariku-Shotts doesn't forget her responsibility to her Ethiopian family — her mother, stepsister and cousin.

"I am sponsoring my sister and cousin in Ethiopia to go to school full time," she said. "My goal is to eventually bring my family to America."

Airman Tariku-Shotts said her mom has taken her to Ethiopia to see her birth mother about four times. She recalled the first time she went back to Africa and Ms. Tariku saw her. "It was like a shock for her when she saw me. Everybody said I had grown fat."

She said she will always remember to be grateful for what Mrs. Carter-Shotts gave her... life, and freedom from poverty and disease. "I became an American citizen when I was 8 years old after Mom did all the necessary paperwork."

"I am very grateful," Airman Tariku-Shotts said. "Now, I don't want to go through life without making an impact. If everybody could try to make a good impact in this world, it would be a better world."



# What is there to do in Del

By 1st Lt.  
Sheila N. Johnston  
Public Affairs

*(Editor's note: This article gives only a few ideas for activities in the local area. For more information, use the resources listed in the article or read the Community page each week in the Border Eagle.)*

As military members move from one duty station to the next, scenery, people and activities change.

This begs the question, "What is there to do at Laughlin... or in Del Rio?"

## Let's begin with the arts...

Del Rio is host to a variety of art outlets and craft fun.

The Del Rio Council for the Arts, 120 E. Garfield, in the Firehouse Gallery & Gift Shop hosts a First Friday Art Walk each month where local galleries and artists display a variety of work. The council also offers programs for children and adults.

The art council also puts together a theater series called Firehouse Fantastics, a series of shows spread from December to March and performed at the Paul Poag Theatre for the Performing Arts, 746 South Main Street. For class schedules,



**Paul Poag Theatre for the Performing Arts, Del Rio, Texas**

ticket information, or other details, log on to <http://www.delrioarts.org/> call (830) 775-0888.

The Paul Poag Theatre also offers performances by the Upstagers, Del Rio's award-winning theatre group. Local talent, including Laughlin members, performs several times

throughout the year. The next show will be "Fiddler on the Roof" Aug. 12, 13, 19 and 20. For show times, ticket information, and a schedule of upcoming performances, log on to <http://www.delriiousa.com/ppt.html> or call (830) 775-7708.

## And the great outdoors...

The Del Rio area is host to several state and national parks.

The most-widely recognized in the area is Amistad National Recreation Area. Lake Amistad has 10 boat ramps and four main marinas, one of which is owned and operated by Laughlin's Outdoor Recreation unit. Southwinds Marina offers a boating-safety course (required by Texas law before taking to the water), boat rentals, campsites, RV hook-ups, a pavilion and playground area and boat storage.

For details on rentals and courses at Laughlin's Southwinds Marina, call



**Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center, Cactus Garden, Langtry, Texas**

(830) 775-7800. Before heading to other marinas, check the National Park Service website at <http://www.nps.gov/amis/parkact.htm> for detailed information including water conditions or call (830) 775-7491 for weather updates, camping and boating information regarding services offered through the NPS and more.

Also in the local area are several hiking hot spots. Seminole Canyon State Park and Historic Site offers a glimpse of Pecos Rock Art indigenous to this region. Take a tour by visiting the park, or call the Rock Art Foundation to see what rock-art education they are offering in the area. The foundation also has a website, <http://www.sidecanyon.com/features/ratours1.htm>, where you can read about rock art and see a listing of area events.

Also a part of Seminole Canyon are the Parida and Panther caves, sites only accessible by

boat from the Rio Grande. Boat owners can launch from the Pecos River ramp near Comstock, Texas, and ride about 5 minutes downriver past the Pecos-Rio Grande confluence to see Parida Cave and about 15 more minutes downriver to view Panther Cave. For information on offerings at Seminole Canyon, call (432) 292-4464 or visit <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us>.

If that still doesn't cover it, consider visiting Devil's Sinkhole State Natural Area near Rocksprings to watch swarms of bats exit the cave in the evenings. Reservations are required for trips to Devil's Sinkhole. Call (830) 683-3762 or visit <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us> for more information.

Though it's impossible to list all the outdoor hot spots, the National Park Service, <http://www.nps.gov/>, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us>, have additional outdoor



**Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center, Jersey Lilly Saloon, Comstock, Texas**

*Photos by 1st Lt. Sheila N. Johnston*



# Rio? *Adventure begins at home*

listings on their websites. To find events and items in this area, look for information about the Big Bend or Hill Country regions since Del Rio lies where these two and the South Texas Plains region meet.

## How about quiet time?

Del Rio has its own hidden gems.

Most know about the Val Verde Winery and its award-winning products, but what about the Villa Del Rio, (800) 995-1887, or the 1890 House, (210) 775-8061, bed and breakfasts just around the corner? They offer historic accommodations and a local escape. For pricing and availability, call the proprietors or log on to <http://www.villa.delrio.com/> for the Villa Del Rio or <http://www.innsite.com/> for the 1890 House.

If that's not your style, try camping at Garner State Park near Concan (north of Uvalde) or any of the other state and national camping areas. Call (830) 232-6132 for information.

And, if it's not about sleeping--just having time alone--visit one of the area's 9- and 18-hole golf courses. Leaning Pine Golf Course, (830) 298-5451, is right here on base, San Felipe Country Club, (830) 775-3953, is only a few miles from the front gate, and in about 30 minutes, you can reach the golf course at Fort Clark Springs golf course in Brackettville, (830) 563-9204.

After a round of golf at Fort Clark, cool off with a dip in their always 68-degree, spring-fed swimming pool. For detailed information about Fort Clark, log onto <http://www.fortclark.com>.

## And family fun?

The area offers a variety of outlets for families to enjoy each other's company.

Try watching an inexpen-

sive, first-run movie at the 8-screen Cinemark Movie Theater in Plaza Del Sol Mall. For show times, call (830) 775-8122 or log onto <http://www.cinemark.com>.

Then, step inside the movie screen. Take the family to a real movie set. Visit Alamo Village near Brackettville and tour the set where John Wayne directed and starred in "The Alamo."

There's more. Learn about the history of the area through a variety of means. Visit the Shumla School near Comstock for a rock-art adventure. Log onto <http://www.shumla.org> for a calendar of events.

While there, drive west on Highway 90 to Langtry where the Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center sits. There, the family can see how the Law West of the Pecos was meted. Also on site is a cactus garden with a variety of plant life indigenous to



(Left) Jim Sanders of The Emporium, Del Rio, Texas

(Above) Seminole Canyon State Park, Panther Cave, Comstock, Texas

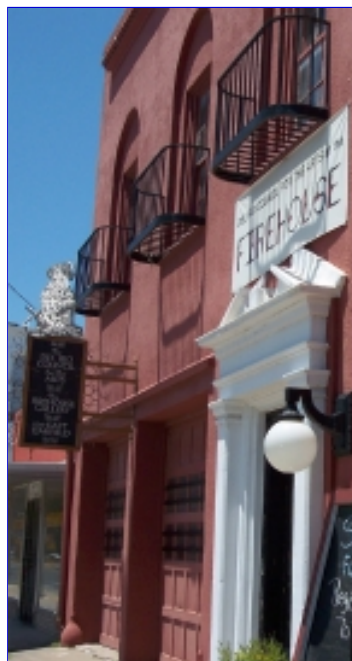
this region. Visit <http://www.dot.state.tx.us/trvtrvtics.htm?pg=lytic> for details.

If that's too far a drive for one day, stick around downtown Del Rio and see a mock up of the judge's court room at the Whitehead Historical Museum. While downtown, stop by The Emporium for a real treat. Have a hand-dipped ice-cream sundae from a soda jerk at a nostalgic ice-cream counter.



(Above) Fort Clark Springs Museum, Brackettville, Texas

(Below) Garner State Park, paddle boats, Concan, Texas



Firehouse, Del Rio Council for the Arts, Del Rio, Texas

## Looking for adventure?

Splash down the Frio or Guadalupe rivers in a tube or raft near Concan. Rental tubes and rafts are available along with transportation back to your vehicle from vendors near the river.

Too wet? Try biking or hiking on a state or national park trail in the area. There are a variety of locations and difficulty levels to choose from, visit the NPS or TPWD sites for details.

## Find more adventure ideas with these resources:

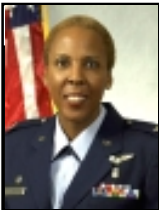
Del Rio Chamber of Commerce: <http://www.drchamber.com/>

Del Rio Council for the Arts: <http://www.delrioarts.org>

National Park Service: <http://www.nps.gov/>

Texas Department of Transportation: <http://www.dot.state.tx.us/>

Texas Parks and Wildlife Service: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us>



What's up  
Doc?

By Col. Laura Torres-Reyes  
47th Medical Group  
commander

**Question:** I was told that I should never use the decorative plates I bought in Mexico for cooking because the pigments they use contain lead paint. Is that true?

**Answer:** It is true that the pigments used in imported ceramic-ware may contain lead and become a source of lead poisoning. If the pigment contains lead and the item is not glazed properly, it can seep through and contaminate food during storage or cooking.

It is recommended you use your intensely colored, glazed pottery for decorative purposes only; however, it should be noted there is a higher risk of your family being exposed to lead from environmental sources from times when lead was considered safe to use in paints, cans and gasoline. Children affected by lead have usually been poisoned by dust that settles on floors and

household surfaces. They are exposed when the dust gets on their hands and then into their mouths.

Lead in drinking water also remains a problem in homes with older plumbing since lead can leach into the water, especially in areas with corrosive “hard” water.

The risk of health effects from lead exposure are of special concern in young children.

The Texas Department of Health’s Texas Healthy Steps program, recommends screening children for lead at 6 months of age if the child has had any type of exposure as identified on a lead-screening questionnaire.

It is considered mandatory for children at 12 months and 2 years of age unless medically contraindicated or against parental religious beliefs. Screening should be repeated at 3 to 6 years of age if the patient is determined to be at high risk based on a lead-screening questionnaire.

For more information please discuss this with your pediatrician, or visit the Texas Department of State Health Services website at [www.dshs.state.tx.us](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us), under the search term “lead.”

Thanks for your question!

You may contact Colonel Torres-Reyes at [laura.torres-reyes@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:laura.torres-reyes@laughlin.af.mil) if you have a What’s Up Doc? question.

2X4

2X4



Intramural Softball Standings

	Team	Win	Loss		Team	Win	Loss
Western Division	CES 1	14	2	Eastern Division	CES 2	16	2
	SFS	10	6		LCSAM	15	3
	CCS 1	11	6		86th	9	8
	MDG	9	7		87th	7	11
	CCS 2	3	12		84th/85th	8	9
	MSS	0	2		OSS	5	12
					LSI	3	15

2X3

3X3